

Treasury Department,

Bureau of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.,

June 6, 1899

Hon. H. Dudley Coleman,

Mint New Orleans, La.

Sir:

I have received and carefully considered your letter of June 1st. I have no wish to interfere in the matter of your appointment of an assistant, further than may seem absolutely necessary to maintain the general rules which are deemed to be essential to the efficient administration and operation of all our Mints. The fact that your son is a graduate of the Stevens Institute of Technology is a considerable point in his favor, although the course of mechanical engineering which he seems to have taken would not alone qualify him to perform the duties of melter and refiner. The discipline and training of such a course however, would undoubtedly be of great service to him, and prepare him to pick up the work of the position much more rapidly than one without such a course would be able to.

I enclose herewith a copy of regulation No. 9 of the new

- 2 -

Civil Service Rules , applying to excepted positions . You will
 that
 by this although the position of assistant melter and refiner
 no longer to be filled by competitive examinations the person nominat-
 for the office must pass a non-competitive examination prescrib-
 by the Civil Service Commission.

I am willing to approve of your sons appointment , but it will be
 necessary as you see, for him to take and pass this examination.

I do not think it would be practicable for him to do this at
 present as the examination will include practical tests. I am
 willing to approve his temporary appointment for ninety days and de-
 termine him to the Philadelphia Mint. After 60 or 90 days in that in-
 stitution with his school training to prepare him, I think it quite
 likely he will be able to pass the examination and give good service
 as your assistant. If it proves to be so I shall be much gratified
 I think young men of his training likely with experience to
 be very efficient officials in the service.

It will be necessary for him to meet his own expenses to and
 Philadelphia but he will of course draw his salary from the date
 entering upon his duties .

Kindly advise me if this arrangement is acceptable.

Very truly yours,

Wm E. Roberts

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I enclose herewith a copy of regulation No. 9 of the new Civil Service Rules applying to excepted positions. You will see by this that although the position of assistant melter and refiner is no longer to be filled by competitive examinations, the person nominated for the office must pass a non-competitive examination prescribed by the Civil Service Commission.

I am willing to approve of your son's appointment but it will be necessary as you see, for him to take and pass this examination.

I do not think it would be practicable for him to do this at present as the examination will include practical tests. I am willing to approve his temporary appointment for ninety days and send him to the Philadelphia Mint. After 60 or 90 days in that institution with his school training to prepare him, I think it quite likely he will be able to pass the examination and give good service as your assistant. If it proves to be so I shall be much gratified as I think young men of his training likely with experience to make very efficient officials in the service.

It will be necessary for him to meet his own expenses to and from Philadelphia but he will of course draw his salary from the date of entering upon his duties.

Kindly advise me if this arrangement is acceptable.

Very truly yours,
[Signature] George E. Roberts